

## Social Psychology – Summer 2009

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01:830:321:B6 ■ Beck Hall 219 ■ MW 6-9:55pm

**Instructor:** Jessica Good

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Office: Tillet Hall 629

Office Hours: by appointment

Mailbox: Tillet Hall 101 (Psych office)

### **Textbook:**

Myers, D. G. (2008). *Social Psychology, 9th edition*, McGraw Hill.

### **Websites:**

*Course Website:* <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> (log in with netID and password, click on Membership). Lecture slides, assignments, and the most-up-to-date syllabus can be found here. Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc.

*Book Website:* [http://highered.mcgrawhill.com/sites/0073531898/student\\_view0/index.html](http://highered.mcgrawhill.com/sites/0073531898/student_view0/index.html)  
The textbook publishers have put together a really helpful supplementary site. This includes study materials, outlines, a glossary of terms, etc.

### **Course Description:**

Social Psychology is the scientific study of how people think about one another, influence one another, and relate to one another. Human experience is shaped by social considerations, from the way culture shapes our interpretations of the world around us to the ways our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors take into account the real or imagined presence of others. Through text reading, lectures, discussions, writing assignments, and exams, you will be asked to think critically about the research presented, and to discuss applications of that research to your life.

### **Course Goals:**

- Gain a general overview of what psychologists have learned about the role of social context in people's daily lives
- Understand basic research methods used in social psychological research
- Gain the ability to understand and critically evaluate research published in the psychological literature

### **Grading:**

Grades will be based on a midterm and final exam, reaction papers, and participation. The breakdown will be as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Final Grade	Percentage
Midterm Exam	25%	A	90 – 100%
Final Exam	30%	B+	87 – 89%
Mini Paper #1	15%	B	80 – 86%
Mini Paper #2	15%	C+	77 – 79%
Participation	15%	C	70 – 76%
		D	60 – 69%
		F	0 – 59%

*Exams:* There will be two in-class exams (midterm and final) which will consist of multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Test material will be taken from required readings and class lectures and will not be cumulative. A study guide will be provided for each exam. Exams will be held during regular class hours, as specified on the schedule. Make-up exams are not permitted without advance permission.

*Mini Paper #1:* In this first paper, you will violate a social norm of your choosing in a public setting, then write about your experience. You must describe your norm violation, report others' reactions to your behavior, and discuss relevant psychological principles. Papers should be no longer than 3 double spaced pages, 12 point font.

*Mini Paper #2:* In the second paper, you will discuss a current example of social psychology represented in the media. Students should select a newspaper or magazine story and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in chapters 6 through 13. Be sure to describe the incident in the story *and* how it applies to the psychological principle. Papers should be no longer than 3 double spaced pages, 12 point font.

*Participation:* Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class by passing around the roster. All students will be given one "free" missed class. Additional absences will result in a decreased participation grade. Students requiring excused absences (illness, death in family) must contact me prior to class, and a doctor's note is required in the case of illness.

Students arriving late to class must sign in on the roster at the end of class. Participation also includes arriving to class prepared (having completed the reading), awake (coffee is allowed), and respectful of other students (absolutely NO cell phones – that includes texting).

*Extra Credit:* One or two extra credit questions will be given on each exam. At least one

in-class extra credit opportunity will be provided during the course of the semester.

Extra credit will also be given for participating in any studies taking place at Rutgers. Please bring me proof of your participation in writing (copy of informed consent, debriefing form, etc.). Each study you participate in will add 1 percentage point onto your participation grade (maximum 3 points).

*GRADING NOTE:* If you believe that there was a mistake in the calculation of your final grade at the end of the class, you must speak to me about it within one week of your final grade being posted. *After one week, your final grade cannot be adjusted for any reason.*

**Cheating/ Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's academic integrity policy (<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). If I suspect a student of cheating, I will report him or her to the Disciplinary Panel. I take cheating very seriously and I suggest you do the same.

To help clarify the situation, I have provided specific details about what is and what is not cheating:

**You May:**

- Consult the textbook and other students when completing reaction papers
- Use the internet to look up study guides or to do research for your reaction papers.
- Study for exams with other students
- Ask me for extra help with a concept

**You May Not:**

- Use the textbook, your notes, or "cheat sheet" on an exam
- Turn in another student's work as your own
- Represent someone else's idea as your own
- Contact anyone during an exam – cell phones OFF

**YOU MUST:**

- Cite your sources in all written work and provide complete references

**Office Hours:**

Students are encouraged to ask questions during class or meet with me directly after class. I am happy to arrange appointments to meet with students individually for extra help. However, I will not "make up" a lecture for students who missed a class for an unexcused reason. Office hours are not a substitute for coming to class.

**Course Schedule:**

The following is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

	Date	Topic	Readings (before class)	Assignment Due
<b>Week 1</b>				
	May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Course Introduction What is Social Psychology? Research Methods	Chap. 1	
<b>Week 2</b>				
	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Self Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chap. 2, 3	
	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Behavior and Attitudes <i>Application: Stanford Prison Study</i> Genes, Culture, and Gender	Chap. 4, 5	
<b>Week 3</b>				
	June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Conformity and Obedience <i>Application: Milgram Shock Experiment Video</i> Persuasion	Chap. 6, 7	Mini Paper #1
	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
<b>Week 4</b>				
	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Group Influence Prejudice	Chap. 8, 9	
	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Prejudice cont. Aggression	Additional Reading Chap. 10	
<b>Week 5</b>				
	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Attraction and Intimacy Helping	Chap. 11, 12	
	June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Conflict and Peacemaking Social Psychology and the Law	Chap. 13, 15	Mini Paper #2
<b>Week 6</b>				
	June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Social Psychology and Ethics Catch-up/ Review	Additional Readings	

	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		
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